

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A vessel for treating medical implants comprising:
a treatment chamber having
an inside surface defining the inside of the treatment chamber,
an outside surface,
an entrance sized to allow medical implant to pass through it,
a plurality of fluid passages, ~~passages passing from the outside surface to the inside surface~~ the passages positioned and sized to create a buffer zone of compressible fluid fluids between the inside surface of the treatment chamber and a medical implant placed therein with when compressible fluid that has exited is passing through the plurality of fluid passages; and
a compressible fluid supply line in fluid communication with coupled to at least one of the fluid passages.
2. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising:
a therapeutic injection nozzle positioned within the treatment chamber along a longitudinal axis of the treatment chamber.
3. (Currently Amended) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the treatment chamber is cylindrical and the plurality of fluid passages are uniformly spaced and positioned along the ~~inside surface of the~~ inside surface of the treatment chamber.
4. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising:
an outer case surrounding the treatment chamber;
a coating supply coupled to the treatment chamber; and
a heating element in thermal communication with the inside surface of the treatment chamber.
5. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the fluid passages are coupled to a supply of coating and therapeutic.
6. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the treatment chamber is cylindrically shaped and further comprises:
an end cap; and
an exhaust,

wherein the plurality of fluid passages positioned and sized to circulate compressible fluid within the treatment chamber, and the treatment chamber is sized to treat a single medical implant at a time.

7. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein a coating source, a therapeutic source, and a compressible fluid source are each coupled to the fluid passages.

8. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising: a first nozzle positioned within the treatment chamber, the first nozzle slidable along a longitudinal axis of the treatment chamber, the first nozzle coupled to a supply of therapeutic or coating; and

 a second nozzle positioned within the treatment chamber, the second nozzle slidable along a longitudinal axis of the treatment chamber, the second nozzle coupled to a supply of therapeutic or coating.

9. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein a first set of fluid passages direct circulation of compressible fluids within the treatment chamber in a first direction and wherein a second set of fluid passages direct circulation of compressible fluids within the treatment chamber in a second direction, the first direction different from the second direction.

10. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 9 wherein the first direction is opposed to the second direction.

11. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the treatment chamber is not opaque.

12. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the fluid passages comprise at least a first set of passages and a second set of passages, and wherein compressible fluid may be ejected from the first set of passages regardless of whether compressible fluid is being ejected from the second set of passages.

13. (Original) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising: a supply of a first coating coupled to the treatment chamber; and a supply of a second coating coupled to the treatment chamber.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a medical implant comprising: placing a first medical implant into a treatment chamber having inside surfaces;

retarding the first medical implant from contacting the inside surfaces of the treatment chamber by injecting compressible fluid into the treatment chamber the compressible fluid forcing the implant away from the inside surfaces of the treatment chamber;
injecting a therapeutic into the treatment chamber; and
removing the first medical implant.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
drying the therapeutic onto the first medical implant.
16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
rotating the medical implant in one direction along a longitudinal axis of the first medical implant and then rotating the medical implant in the opposite direction along the same longitudinal axis.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the medical implant is cylindrical and the method further comprises:
injecting therapeutic within the cylindrical implant while the implant is spinning within the treatment chamber.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
placing a second nozzle within the treatment chamber.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
disposing of the treatment chamber after the first medical implant is removed.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
rotating the first medical implant until therapeutic becomes embedded in the first medical implant.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
activating a heating element to dry the therapeutic.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
placing a second medical implant into the treatment chamber prior to removing the first medical implant.
23. (New) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the passages are further positioned and sized such that when compressible fluid is exiting the

plurality of fluid passages a medical implant positioned in the treatment chamber rotates about one of its axes.

24. (New) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the axis about which the medical implant rotates is a longitudinal axis of the medical implant.
25. (New) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the buffer zone of compressible fluid encircles the medical implant.
26. (New) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the buffer zone of compressible fluid prevents contact between the medical implant and the inside surface of the treatment chamber.